

Hoover Belles

The Hoover Belles were established as a community service organization in 1980 and are governed by the Hoover Belle Committee. Young ladies are eligible to apply to become a Hoover Belle during their sophomore year in high school and serve a two-year term.

A HOOVER BELLE MUST BE A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF HOOVER, of exemplary character, have a pleasant personality, be continuously enrolled in school, and enjoy the civic responsibility of serving her city and local charities. She must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 for her full term as a Hoover Belle.

During her term of service, each Belle is required to work a minimum of 30 hours of community service through the Hoover Belle program. A Belle must conduct herself in a manner that will bring honor to the Hoover Belle program and will be required to sign the Hoover Belle Pledge vowing to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free during her tenure as a Hoover Belle. Each Belle selected is responsible for the cost of her antebellum gown, accessories, and the Belle fee of \$250.00.

Application forms will **only** be available **ONLINE** from **October 13th to November 13th** on the City of Hoover website: **www.hooveral.org**. The applications must be returned to the Hoover Chamber of Commerce, located at 1694 Highway 31, Staples Shopping Center, Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Applications and Reference Letters must be placed in a sealed 9x12 envelope and returned to the Hoover Chamber of Commerce by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, November 13, 2015. Each application must include a \$20.00 application fee, payable to Hoover Belles. This fee will be applied to the \$250.00 Belle fee for those chosen. The person returning the application must sign in so that we have a crosscheck to verify the return. Applicants will be required to attend an interview on Saturday, January 9, 2016. You will be advised of your interview time. The last four digits of the Social Security number of the Belles chosen for the two year term will be posted on this website by 3:00 P.M. on Friday, January 15, 2016.

Each Hoover Belle chosen is required to attend the following: Orientation, Thursday, January 21, 2016; Presentation on Sunday, May 1, 2016; the Back-to-School Meeting held on the first Sunday after the start of the Hoover City Schools in August; and during her senior year, the Senior Luncheon held in May.

Examples of community service activities for the Hoover Belles include:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Aldridge Gardens events | The Summit Christmas Parade |
| Hoover Mayor's Prayer Breakfast | Seasonal festivals |
| Southeastern Baseball Invitational | Distinguished Young Women of Shelby County |
| Moss Rock Festival | Decorator's ShowHouse |

Important Dates (details explained above)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • October 13 – November 13, 2015 | Applications will be available |
| • November 13, 2015 by 4:00 pm | Applications due |
| • January 9, 2016 | Interviews for Hoover Belles |
| • January 15, 2016 by 3:00 pm | List posted of girls selected as Hoover Belles |
| • January 21, 2016 | Orientation |
| • May 1, 2016 | Presentation of 2016 Hoover Belles |
| • August, 2016 | Back to School party, 1st Sunday after Hoover schools start |

MEMORANDUM

To: Parent(s) and/or Guardian of all Hoover Belle Applicants
From: The Hoover Belle Committee
Re: The Hoover Belle Pledge

What an exciting time this is for you and your daughter! She is growing more independent daily, accepting responsibility for her actions, trying new activities and exploring concepts that are fresh and exciting. It is our hope that her experience with the Hoover Belle Organization will be a positive one, and will enable her to encounter challenges and enjoy rewards that occur at this wonderful time in her life.

The Hoover Belle Committee expects all Belles to reflect the high standards of our organization in every area of her life. Our girls are respected by their peers, and often serve as role models for younger people in the community. They are held out as outstanding examples of youth in our city. The Hoover Belle Pledge is included in this packet, and must be completed by all girls and their parents as a part of the application process. This pledge should be taken very seriously. At times in the past, non-compliance with this standard has led to disciplinary action being taken, including dismissal from the organization. We do not want this to happen to your daughter. Very fine young people can make poor choices, especially when pressured by their peers. This pledge can be used by your daughter as a tool to help her refrain from participating in risky behavior. We do not want to be parents to the Belles they have parents already!! But we do ask you to help your daughter during this time in her life by endorsing the standards of our organization as reflected in the Hoover Belle Pledge. Please talk with her about these rules. If you have any questions about them, we welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you. If you and your daughter do not feel that you can uphold any portion of the Hoover Belle Pledge, we urge you to reconsider applying to this organization. Failure of any Belle to abide by the Pledge during her tenure will result in disciplinary action.

Your time is very valuable. We all have responsibilities which make huge demands on our lives. The time spent with our young people pays great dividends. Please take the time to talk with your daughter about the points raised by the Pledge, and let her know how important you think her behavior is. We thank you for your cooperation with this important issue, as well as your continuing support in enforcement. It is invaluable!

Please read this memorandum completely, and submit the signed and dated statement as a part of your daughter's application packet. Again, if further explanation is needed, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Hoover Belle Committee.

Thank you.

The Hoover Belle Committee

Please complete this form and submit it with the other portions of your daughter's Hoover Belle application.

Thank you.

I have read the memorandum regarding the Hoover Belle Pledge, and understand its importance. I understand that if my daughter is chosen to be a Hoover Belle, she and I will have to sign the Hoover Belle Pledge, and during her tenure, she will be expected to exhibit those standards in all areas of her life. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Hoover Belles.

NAME

DATE

DAUGHTER'S NAME

Hoover Belle Pledge

As a Hoover Belle, I am viewed as a leader in the community who represents the City of Hoover and charitable organizations as their hostess. I pledge to be responsible and dependable and will conduct myself with integrity, exhibiting outstanding character and moral conduct at all times. I understand this will include any of my postings on social media.

I pledge to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free during my two-year term as a Hoover Belle. I will not have any of these substances on my person, nor will I cause suspicion of or participate in any activities involving these substances.

I pledge to uphold school rules and regulations.

I realize it is my responsibility to uphold the high standards that have been set for me. If I am in violation of upholding this conduct standard set forth, the Hoover Belle Committee may review my conduct and determine what action will be taken.

I have read this information and agree to adhere to this Hoover Belle pledge. If a violation of this pledge results in a review of my actions, I understand that the Hoover Belle Committee's verdict may result in the termination of the remainder of my term as a Hoover Belle.

I have read the memorandum regarding the Hoover Belle Pledge, and understand its importance. I understand that if my daughter is chosen to be a Hoover Belle, she and I will have to sign the Hoover Belle Pledge, and during her tenure, she will be expected to exhibit those standards in all areas of her life. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Hoover Belles.

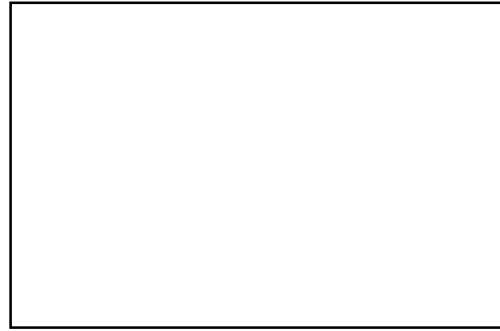
Hoover Belles

Application Form

(Please print legibly)

(Underline preferred name)

Attach a Recent Photo



(No large photos, please)

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

House Number and Street

City

Zip

School

Last four (4) digits of Social Security Number _____

(Will be used to announce the selected candidates on website)

Age _____ G.P.A. _____

Do you have a Facebook Page? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, Facebook Page Name _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Talents _____

- 1. List any civic or school activities/awards/honors for the past three (3) years.**
- 2. List three (3) specific adjectives that best describe you, and tell why.**
- 3. Hoover Belles represent the City of Hoover as official hostesses. Why do you want to become a hostess for the City of Hoover?**
- 4. What experiences do you have that will help you serve as a hostess?**

5. In your opinion, what is the role of a hostess?

*****REQUIRED***** Please **INCLUDE** three (3) recommendation packets from adults other than family members or Hoover City elected officials or employees. Recommendations from Hoover City Schools employees are acceptable. The required recommendation forms are attached. These forms **MUST** be included in your application in the envelope sealed by the recommender.

By signing below, all applicants, parents and/or guardians give approval of the website posting of the last four digits of the selected applicants social security number.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Hoover Belles

Recommendation Form

(Please print legibly)

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Name |
|-----------|------------|-------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----|
| House Number and Street | City | Zip |
|-------------------------|------|-----|

Email

TO THE RECOMMENDER:

The person whose name appears above is applying for selection as a Hoover Belle. Members of this organization represent the City of Hoover at local charities and fundraising events. She has requested that your recommendation be included as part of the information to be used in the selection process. **In addition to your personal letter of recommendation**, please complete this form in its entirety, leaving no blank spaces. Put the letter and completed form in an envelope, seal it, and then sign your name across the seal. Please return the sealed envelope containing the letter and completed form to the applicant so that she may include it in her application packet, as she is responsible for securing these recommendations.

Name of Recommender

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----|-----|
| House Number and Street | City | ST | Zip |
|-------------------------|------|----|-----|

Please complete the following questions. **Circle** your appropriate response.

1. How long have you known the applicant?

- a. Less than a year
- b. Between one (1) year and five (5) years
- c. Longer than five (5) years
- d. Do not know her at all

2. The Belles are chosen for their good character, pleasant personality and willingness to serve Hoover. Do you believe the applicant displays these characteristics?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly disagree
- e. Do not know the applicant well enough to answer

3. Based on your relationship with this applicant, do you:

- a. Highly recommend her to be considered for selection
- b. Recommend her to be considered for selection
- c. Recommend her with reservation for her to be considered for selection
- d. Do not recommend her to be considered for selection

4. Each Hoover Belle, if selected, must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and participate in a minimum of thirty (30) hours of community service during her two-year term. Do you believe this applicant will be able to maintain her GPA and fulfill the necessary hours of community service?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Disagree
- d. Strongly disagree
- e. Do not know the applicant well enough to answer

Again, please include your personal letter of recommendation with this form.

Thank you!

Signature of Recommender

Date